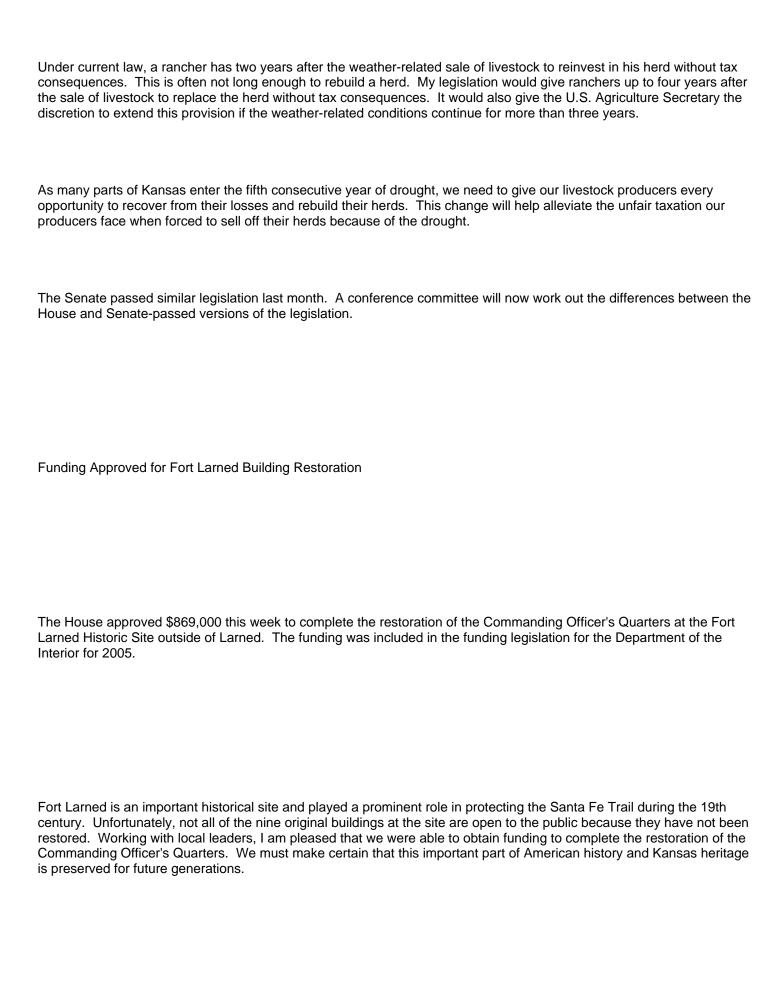
6/21/2004 This Week In Congress

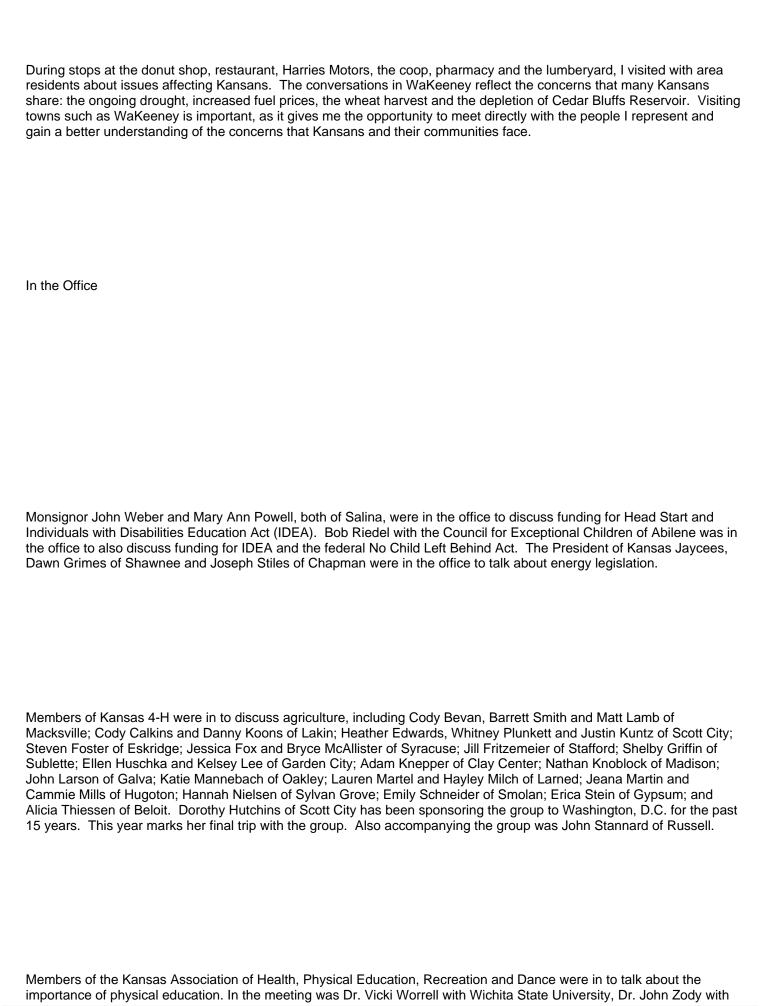
This Week In Congress
June 21, 2004
Door Friend
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.
Deducing Driese at the Cas Dumps Degreesing Dependence on Fergign Francy
Reducing Prices at the Gas Pumps, Decreasing Dependence on Foreign Energy
This week, the House passed legislation to help bring down the cost of fuel and to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. Included in the legislation were several provisions to reduce the price of fuel and also to promote
renewable fuels, such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind energy.
Bio-based fuels represent a growing portion of the Kansas agriculture sector and provide a boost to the state's economy. Currently, six ethanol plants in Kansas produce 122 million gallons of ethanol, creating a market for 45 million bushels of
corn and sorghum each year. The legislation contains a renewable fuels requirement to add five billion gallons per year of ethanol and other renewable-based fuel to the nation's gasoline. Last year, nearly three billion gallons of ethanol were produced across the country.

This legislation would also decrease the U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. In 1973, America imported 30 percent of its oil from foreign sources. Today, the U.S. imports nearly 60 percent of its oil, sending more than \$100 billion a year to oil-producing nations. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, America loses 12,389 jobs for every billion dollars it spends on imports. At today's oil prices, that means America is sending more than 1.7 million jobs overseas for oil every year.
When Americans pay more than two dollars per gallon to fill their cars and trucks, this has negative effects on our ability to do business, and it is costing our families more out of pocket. Many businesses are raising their prices because delivery costs are increasing, and our families are second-guessing their summer vacation plans. We must implement better energy policies, which will reduce the costs that Kansans pay at the pump.
The legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration.
Promoting Kansas Wheat Sales to Iraq
The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing this week to review the current state of agriculture production in Iraq and the likelihood of resuming commercial sales of U.S. agricultural products. The hearing also focused on allegations of improprieties by the Saddam Hussein regime, resulting in corruption of the United Nations' "Oil for Food" Program. The United Nations is investigating the alleged corruption.

Years of financial neglect and an absence of a commercial market in Iraq have damaged the country's agriculture sector. While the agriculture sector is rebuilding, Iraq will have to rely on imports of food and agriculture products. As the combines roll in Kansas, there is potential to sell Kansas wheat to Iraq.
Witnesses testified that they are confident that commercial sales of U.S. agriculture products will resume in Iraq. They expect that Iraq will need to import 2.6 million tons of wheat and one million tons of rice this year. Earlier this year, the U.S. sold 325,000 tons of wheat to Iraq. Prior to the 1991 Gulf war, the U.S. sold three million tons per year to Iraq.
The U.S. agriculture industry is attempting to foster relations with Iraqi buyers, and the Kansas Wheat Commission and others have been working to sponsor a group to visit the United States. However, problems associated with obtaining visas and clearances have forced the group to postpone the trip until July.
It is critical that the U.S. agriculture industry re-establish relations with Iraqi buyers. Iraq is yet another market for Kansas products, and I look forward to having the Iraqi delegation in Kansas to discuss potential wheat sales.
Assisting Livestock Producers
The House passed legislation this week that would provide tax relief to ranchers forced to sell their livestock due to weather-related disasters. I originally introduced this legislation in January 2003, which was included in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004.



The Commanding Officer's Quarters, located on the west side of the parade grounds, is one of the largest buildings at the fort. During its peak use between 1867 and 1878, the building was home to a rotation of roughly 13 commanding officers, including Major General Winfield Hancock and Lieutenant Colonel George Custer. Other famous visitors, such as William "Buffalo Bill" Cody and Kit Carson, were guests at the Quarters.
Celebrating Flag Day
In honor of Flag Day on Monday, June 14th, I would like to remind Kansans that American flags can be flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. to honor family and friends or special events. Flags that are flown over the Capitol include a personalized certificate stating the date flown and specific occasion. Various sizes of flags are available in either nylon or cotton.
If you would like more information about buying a flag or to place an order, please visit my website at: http://www.house.gov/moranks01/flags.shtml. If you have additional questions about ordering a flag, please feel free to call my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-2715.
Visiting WaKeeney
On Saturday morning, I had the opportunity to visit WaKeeney and talk with area residents. I appreciate meeting with Kansans and local business to gather their input and suggestions on ways I can better serve you in Washington.



Fort Hays State University and Joyce Ellis from Kansas Wesleyan in Salina. Newton were in on behalf of the Presidential Classroom.	Erika Stillwell of Haven and Terra Wiens of
Winners of the Kansas Electric Coops Youth were in town this week to learn r importance of getting involved in grassroots legislation. Making the trip this you Jessup of Almena, Samantha Small of Caldwell, Benjamin Boroughs of Cimar	ear was Joshua Bishoff of Allen, Lindsey
Call of El Dorado, Bryce Bishop of Hays, Chelsea Shrack of luka, Amanda Lo Sasha Roe of Mankato, Erin Daniels of Minneola, Jennifer Wellnitz of Neosho Frieb of Olmitz, Elizabeth Nowell of Oskaloosa, Ashley Fischer of Robinson, Vof Salina, Casey Wade of Satanta, Rane Nolan of Scott City, David Ross of S Kelsey Ekstrum of Vermillion and Denise Neff of WaKeeney. The chaperones Marcia and Greg Kampling with the Sedgwick County Electric Coop of Chene Electric Cooperative in Topeka.	ook of Lawrence, Kelsey Cavit of Lyons, on Rapids, Steven Frank of Ness City, Jordar Victoria Martinez of Rolla, Kala VanCoever Stockton, Shelley McClelland of Topeka, as for the trip were Marlayne Hahn and
In for a tour of the Capitol this week was Doris Slocombe of Emporia, as were Haven and his daughter, Erin. Linda Howard of Hutchinson and her daughter Galloway of Partridge and her nephew, Sam Eberly; and Kay Berglund of Salitheir children, Olivia and Magdalene, were in for a tour, as were Tim and Nick Michael. Clay Burkhead of Emporia was in for a tour, as were Kevin and Lori Siera, Jessica and Trenton.	r, Lacey, were in for a tour, as were Vicki ina. John and Andrea Zody of Ellis, and i Strickland of Liberal, and their son,
Jeff and Stacy Black of Hardtner and their sons, Dalton and Conner, were in f Agra and their grandson, William, were also in for a tour, as were Karen Allen Alyson Rohr.	•
Very truly yours,	
Jerry	